



**Cadet Vaughn Brazil (in blue) prepares to duck from University of Las Vegas boxer Mike Corbin. Cadet Brazil won the three-round match in a decision.**

Photo by Airman 1st Class James T. May III



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

**Prior to their matches Saturday, the USAF Academy cadets toured 547th Intelligence Squadron’s adversary tactics and training facility. At the top, the team poses on the Soviet made HIND helicopter on display at the “petting zoo.” At the right, cadet Mark Sletten takes aim at an imaginary target with a captured grenade launcher.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

# Victory!

## USAF Academy boxing team scores big over UNLV team

**By Staff Sgt. Ed Scott  
AWFC Public Affairs**

Understanding odds are always in the house’s favor, especially in Las Vegas, the U.S. Air Force Academy boxing team came here expecting to win less than half of their matches against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

When the bell rang ending the final match, the cadets had fought their way to a jackpot taking approximately 75 percent of the matches with a 7 and 3 record.

“They tore us up,” said Mr. Frank Slaughter, assistant boxing coach at UNLV. “This was a learning experience for us. We’re only in our second year, and the Air Force has been around forever.”

“It was really competitive – we got a couple of decisions that could have gone either way,” Academy Coach Eddie Weichers said.

Coach Weichers said freshman take 10 boxing lessons and its a part of their curriculum giving them a larger pool to draw fighters from where the UNLV program is a club and not a requirement. This type of program has given the Academy a good history in the ring since they are currently the defending National Champions and have held the title for 13 of the last 20 years.

“We brought 11 guys here to get experience for the upcoming Wing Open we hold every year,” Coach Weichers said.

The All Academy Wing Open is a tournament where boxers compete for the 12 All Academy titles who then go to regional competition for a chance at the nationals. The 12 All Academy boxers are known as the Dirty Dozen.

“This competition has dual purpose,” Coach Weichers said. “It’s not a season ending type of match, but gives the beginners a chance to get a few competition matches under their belt and to mature in the ring.”

Along with the beginners, Coach Weichers brought two-time National Champion in the 185-pound category, Cadet Mark Sletten and defending Heavyweight Champion, Cadet Mark Porcella.

“Boxing helps an individual carry himself with confidence — and with that you gain respect,” said Cadet Sletten a fighter pilot hopeful. “Freshmen walk around with their shoulders shrugged and there doesn’t seem to be any confidence they can handle a situation, but when you step into the ring it’s you against the other guy — it’s nerve racking but when you carry out your plan and win — you start to gain the confidence you’ll need to handle situations.”

To train for UNLV, Coach Weichers let out one of Cadet Sletten’s training secrets.

“We were in the airport early in the morning and everyone hit the snack bar for juice and bagels — that is except for Cadet Sletten,” he said. “I looked over and he had a huge hotdog dripping in greasy chili that looked like it had been sitting in a pot for two weeks.”

Cadet Sletten’s only defense was, “it was good.”

As for competing against the UNLV team, Coach Weichers finds himself up against a former student of his. He coached the UNLV Head Coach, Skipper Kelp.

“The UNLV staff is doing a good job with their program,” said Coach Weichers. “They’re attracting some quality young men, and they’re doing a great thing.”

Cadet Lincoln McCloud was selected boxer of the week for his second round victory over UNLV boxer, Chris Kennedy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

**At the left, Cadet Vaughn Brazil inspects a Russian made self-propelled ZSU 23-4. The multi-barreled weapon is similar to the Army’s Vulcan, which was used successfully in the Gulf War. Top, A cadet gets ready to check out the interior of an armored personnel carrier.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi